

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**

**Important Notice to Visitors:
Burr Oak Woods Managed Deer Hunts**

- For your safety the area will be closed to public traffic. Walking the roadways and trails is prohibited during the managed deer hunts. The Nature Center will be open and available to the public.
- Archery Managed Hunt; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; **November 7, 8 and 9.**
- Muzzleload Managed Hunt; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; **December 5, 6 and 7.**

**November 24, Thursday
Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24, 25 & 26,
Saturday, Sunday and Monday
Christmas Holiday**

In observation of the holiday the nature center and area will be closed to the public.



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 19 November 2005 Number 11



Changes Seen at Burr Oak Woods

You may have noticed something new at Burr Oak Woods if you have visited this summer. I'm not talking about the upgrades to the Nature Center. It's not the new pavement on the Discovery Trail either. It's corn!!! We have returned to planting food plots on the area. This year's food plots included nearly 18 acres of corn and sunflowers. Some of our food plots were more successful than others, but teaching a group of foresters to be farmers is not the easiest of tasks.

Burr Oak Woods has gotten away from planting food plots in recent years in an attempt to curb the deer population. We have found that the lush, green grass and plethora of acorns on and surrounding Burr Oak Woods were more than enough to make up for the missing food plots.

As Forestry Division accepted resource management responsibilities for Burr Oak Woods, we looked at all options for management of both the open and forested acres. We chose to return food plots to the area for several reasons. Here are a couple of those:

1) Food plots are a draw for wildlife. Visitors to Burr Oak Woods are looking for a peaceful break from the stresses of daily life. Just seeing the many species of trees, grasses and flowers are a definite treat that

many do not get to enjoy on a daily basis. When you add in the opportunity to see deer, turkey, songbirds or other

wildlife, the treat is only that much better. We have concentrated our food plot efforts along the main road to offer the best opportunity for wildlife viewing. Drawing wildlife, such as deer, into the center of the area also helps to reduce the number of vehicle/wildlife collisions on the busy roads surrounding Burr Oak Woods.

2) New food seeds help us manage exotic and invasive plants. Many exotic/invasive species are hard to target in natural ecosystems such as our prairies. Planting food plots in an area for a few consecutive years allows us to remove certain undesirable species with the use of herbicides. We can then restore the area to native plantings without fighting these highly competitive plants and have a much better end product.

We continue to strive to provide the best outdoor opportunities for all citizens. As we take a more active land management strategy, you will continue to see more changes across the Burr Oak Woods landscape. I invite you to explore the habitat changes as they occur. You will find the progressive steps interesting and will learn the years of labor that are involved in restoring a healthy and diverse ecosystem. We will inform you about the changes as they occur. If you have any questions along the way, just drop me an email at Danny.Hartwig@mdc.mo.gov or give me a call.

--Danny Hartwig, Area Manager



Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!



Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

The Nutshell

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US POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT 274

N o v e m b e r P r o g r a m s

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call

816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

5 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

A DAY WITH THE NATURALIST

Field trip to Eagle Bluffs CA

Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area is a great place to see migratory waterfowl. If we are lucky, we might even see an eagle and more! Bring water and sack lunch. Dress for the weather.

This program will be presented in sign language and will begin at the Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City. Please call to register. **All Ages / 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

5 Saturday

Babes in the Woods:

Discovering Winter

During this session we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler take steps down the path to discovering the outdoor world during winter. This will be the last session until March. Please bring your stroller and call to register. **Ages infant - 2 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

5 Saturday

Adults Only:

Autumn Bounty Wild Edible Hike

Join Frances Mathews for our final wild edible's hike of the season. She is sure to have a tasty treat for you to sample. Meet at the Habitat Trail head. Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy shoes. Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

6 Sunday

For the Birds

Not all birds migrate when the weather gets cold. During this class we will do a feeder watch and, after observing the birds that are still around, we will make suet cakes and simple feeders to take home to use with your own backyard birds. Please call to register. **Ages 9 - 12 / 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

8 Tuesday

O.A.K.S. Outdoors:

(Older Adults Keeping Strong Outdoors)

Nature's Art Wreath Making

Let's kick off the holiday season this year by creating a gorgeous holiday wreath embellished with natural objects gathered from Missouri's forests and prairies. Each participant will need to bring a grapevine wreath to decorate. Please call to register. **Adults 55 and up / 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

8 Tuesday

Adults Only:

Paper Turkey Centerpiece and Mod Podge Harvest Bowl

This adorable turkey is sure to spice up any holiday harvest table. Made out of twisted paper and a 3" foam ball, this unique craft is fun and easy to make. We will also be making a Mod Podge harvest bowl to compliment your turkey. Please bring one 3" foam ball and a pint sized glass bowl (to use as a form). Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

9 Wednesday

Adults Only:

Prairie Grass Dolls

What better Thanksgiving decoration than a collection of pilgrim prairie grass dolls? We will be learning the art of making these dolls and decorating them with natural items. Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

12 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

A DAY WITH THE NATURALIST

Field trip to Ted Shanks CA

Join us for a road trip to Ted Shanks Conservation Area, we will explore what type of migratory waterfowl pass through the St. Louis Area, we might even be lucky enough to spot a great blue heron. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them water and sack lunch. **This program will be presented in sign language and will begin at the August A. Bush Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles.** Please call to register. **All Ages / 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Come join us as we feed the animals at Burr Oak Woods CNC Sunday, Wednesday or Friday at 3:00 p.m.

Camera Meander

By Gene MacKay

For over a year Gene MacKay has been meandering on the trails of Burr Oak Woods, shooting nearly 10,000 photos. These have been edited to a few favorite prints and several hundred photos that he shares in slide shows. Mr. MacKay's artistry will be on display at the nature center on **Saturday, November 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

These first hand experiences, the hunt for the great photo opt, the triumph of success, the viewing and editing on my computer, the creation of slide shows, the feedback from people with whom I share my work...so many pleasures...Gene MacKay

Gene's slide shows will run in the Burr Oak Woods Auditorium throughout the day. Take some time to come out and welcome this special photographer and his intelligent Nikon 8800! He will be more than willing to share some thoughts and experiences, the pleasures of shooting, editing and sharing nature's awesome beauty.



12 Saturday

Missouri Deer Game

Missourians' enjoy deer hunting for many different reasons. Some enjoy the time spent in the outdoors and others enjoy the comradery of friends and family. Come join the naturalist and explore some other important reasons for deer hunting. This will be an indoor game geared toward learning predator-prey relationships and land use practices. Please call to register. **Ages 9 and up / 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.**

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org

13 Sunday

Adults Only Hiking Club: Hiking the Katy Trail!

Join our naturalists as we hike the Katy Trail. We will start at the historic town of Rocheport which is located in between Boonville and Columbia. We will be leaving Burr Oak Woods promptly at 10:00 a.m. and returning by 5:00 p.m. The trail is built on the old Katy Trail Railroad line and runs adjacent to the Missouri River with bluffs at least 200 feet high on the other side. The hike will include walking through a railroad tunnel and the Conservation area located by the town. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Bring a sack lunch and drinks and don't forget your binoculars and camera! Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

13 Sunday

Deer Detectives

November is the month when white-tailed deer activity is at its peak. Hike with a naturalist to discover signs of deer activity. Learn what "scat" is and the difference between a rub and a scrape. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Please call to register. **All ages / 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

15 Tuesday

Conservation Kid's Club: Dr. Nutcase

Dr. Nutcase will make a special return visit to the Conservation Kid's Club. He needs some help in unlocking one of those amazing mysteries of science. We will become his research assistants as he leads us through an incredible science experiment. Don't miss it! Please call to register. **Ages 7 - 10 / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

16 Wednesday

Home-school: The Puzzle of Predator and Prey

Your students will explore the role of both predator and prey and how their roles fit together within a food web. We will participate in fun, educational, hands-on activities, and outdoor exploration. Please call to register.

**Ages 3 - 5 or 6 - 8 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Ages 9 - 11 or 12 and up / 10:00 a.m. - Noon
or 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

11 Friday or 26 Saturday or 27 Sunday

Nature Movies ~ Take a break from the trails and join us for an afternoon of nature movies. We will show a selection of movies. No registration required. **All Ages / 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

17 Thursday or 19 Saturday

Little Acorns:

FeederWatch

This Little Acorns program is dedicated to our feather friends. We will learn a little about Missouri's winter birds then head to the bird viewing area to count the number of birds we can see. Come learn about the FeederWatch program and learn everything you need to know to get started feeding the birds at your house! Please call to register. **Ages 3 - 6 / Thursday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 - Noon or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

19 Saturday

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Join us for our story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required. **Ages 2 and up / 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

26 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Aw Nuts!

November is nutty! We will investigate some of the many kinds of nuts and seeds nature provides this time of year, then we will make a cool craft using some of them. **This program will be presented in sign language.** Please call to register. This program will be at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center. **All Ages / 10:00 a.m. - Noon**



NOVEMBER PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

816-229-4448

28900 E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

**Website for Lake City Shooting Range and
Outdoor Education Center**

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call

816-229-4448 for information and to register for these programs.

Deer Hunters:

Assistance for sighting-in of rifles will be available Wednesday thru Sunday November 2nd through 11th 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The range is closed to the public Monday and Tuesday.

Beginner Deer Hunting Seminar

2, Wednesday
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Youth Air Rifle

22, Tuesday
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Nature Shop News

The 2006 Natural Events Calendars

from MDC are available

\$5.⁰⁰ plus tax

or

\$4.²⁵ plus tax

with your Heritage Card



November Featured Item

Fox in the Forest

Regular price \$8.00

Featured price \$6.40

Heritage Card discount
does not apply



Natural Happenings

- ▶ Waterfowl watchers can find large numbers of canvasback, redhead, scaup, merganser, and ringneck ducks at area lakes and ponds.
- ▶ Bring the wildlife to you! Fill your bird feeders and watch them from the comfort of your home.
- ▶ Wild Edibles: Pecans begin to ripen this month. Collect them as they drop from the trees.
- ▶ Enjoy an insect free nature hike this month! Your familiar hiking places have taken on a new look as the leaves fall off.



*Help us welcome and congratulate our newest staff at
Burr Oak Woods CNC*

Receiving a Warm Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Burr Oak Woods for extending such a warm welcome. My name is Ben Pursley and I'm one of the new naturalists here at Burr Oak Woods. I come to you from the St. Louis area where I was previously working as a Resource Assistant in the Forestry division at Rockwoods Reservation in St. Louis Co. Prior to that I have worked as a Naturalist at Rockwoods Reservation, August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area, and Montauk State Park. I have also spent some time working as an E.M.T. and as a firefighter. In 2001 I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management from S.M.S.U. in Springfield. On my time away from Burr Oak Woods, I enjoy hunting and fishing and spending time with friends and family.

I'm looking forward to becoming a member of the family here at Burr Oak Woods and meeting all of the great people in the Kansas City area I have heard so much about. On your next visit, stop in and share a story or two or just to say hello. I hope to see you all soon.

Ben Pursley, Naturalist



My name is Shalena Tolbert and I am one of the new full-time naturalists at Burr Oak Woods. Some of you may know me as one of the part-time naturalists. I received a Bachelors degree in Organismal, Ecological, and Evolutionary Biology from Southeast

Missouri State University in 2003. That summer, I completed an internship at the International Exotic Feline Sanctuary in Boyd, TX. Then I moved to Blue Springs where I obtained experience in animal care at Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe, KS and retail. In 2004, I got the privilege to work as a part-time naturalist at Burr Oak Woods. I loved the job so much that when the opportunity came, I worked my hardest so I could obtain a career as a full-time naturalist at Burr Oak Woods. I would like to thank the staff at Burr Oak Woods and also the visitors for their support at becoming a naturalist for the nature center. I look forward to seeing you here, at Burr Oak Woods in the near future!

Shalena Tolbert, Naturalist



Burr Oak Woods Volunteer Class of 2006: We Need You!

We will begin a new volunteer training class in January! If you are interested in sharing your love for nature with others, we need you! To apply for this training, please call Lisa LaCombe at 816-655-6263 ext. 232. Watch the December Nutshell for further details.



Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
Phone 816-228-3766
TDD: 816-655-6268
Fax: 816-655-6267

**NATURE CENTER
MANAGER**
Lynn Youngblood

**NATURE CENTER
ASSISTANT
MANAGER**
Lisa LaCombe

NATURALISTS
Carol Barclay
Sheri Medlock
Diane Neal
Ben Pursley
Shalena Tolbert

CLERICAL
Lauren McCarthy, *Supervisor*
Joan Blackmon
Paulette Ozias
Joe Polka
Gina Schafer

MAINTENANCE
Wayne Bass, *Supervisor*
David Bilyeu
Rachael Butler
Sean Harkins
Ed Miller

FORESTRY
Danny Hartwig, *Area Manager*
Dan Patterson
Sharon Sampsel

MECHANIC
Robert Maupins

NEWSLETTER
Editor Lynn Youngblood
Layout Joan Blackmon

Programs Coming In December

Please call 816-228-3766; on or after November 1; to register for the programs listed below.

3 Saturday

Missouri Conservation Frontiers: Animal Signs

Winter is a great time to discover the many signs animals leave behind. Their tracks are left in the snow and mud, and the bare trees reveal many things that are otherwise hidden by leaves, such as their dens, nests, traces of fur, or maybe even the wildlife themselves! Join us as we bundle up and venture out to discover the signs that tell us animals are still out and about. Dress for the weather. Please call to register. All ages / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

4 Sunday

Families: Winter Walk – Hickory Grove Trail

Do you feel like you are sleeping the winter away by staying indoors all winter? Well, grab your coat and hat and get out of the house! Join us for a crisp walk down the Hickory Grove Trail as we look at all the winter wildlife. Dress for the weather. Please call to register. Families (with children 5 and up) / 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

17 Saturday

Adults: Brain Tanned Leather

Deer Hunters! Have you ever experienced the richness of brain tanned leather? This series of special workshops will teach you how to tan your own deer hide in the ancient custom of the American Indian. In preparation, you will need to save your deer hide by rolling it up, hair to the inside, double bag it, and store it in the freezer. Place the deer's brain in a zip-lock bag and freeze it as well. Workshop classes will be held in Saturday, December 17, January 21 and February 25, all three classes must be attended. Watch the Nutshell for January and February times. This will be a labor intensive program and attendance is limited. After registration, you must bring properly tagged deer hide and brain to Burr Oak Woods no later than December 10. Ages 16 and up / 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Missouri Department of Conservation: Eagle Days 2005-2006

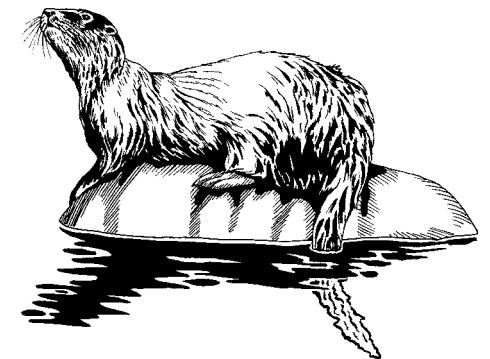
Special events are scheduled throughout the state! Pick up an events schedule at the nature center today! Join us at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge on December 3 & 4 between 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Events include live eagle programs, wild eagle viewing, and fun-filled activities for the whole family! Call 816-228-3766 for more information.

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•Archery Managed Hunt;
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday;
November 7, 8 and 9.

•Muzzleload Managed Hunt
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday;
December 5, 6 and 7.



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Nature Center and Area ~ CLOSED ~

***November 24
the Thanksgiving holiday***

***December 24, 25 & 26,
the Christmas holiday
and
December 31, January 1 & 2
the New Year holiday***

**In observation of the
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